

## **Seasonal Influenza and H1N1 Update**

Fall is approaching quickly and as the year comes to a close, it brings the cold and flu season. With the development of H1N1 virus the influenza program will be expanded and include one seasonal immunization and a two dose series for H1N1 vaccine. The programs will start on receipt of the vaccines with the seasonal program projected to start around 15 September and the H1N1 in late October or early November.

### ***Seasonal Influenza Program***

The seasonal influenza vaccinations will begin early this year as the Installation is expecting delivery of the vaccine by 15 September 2009. Seasonal influenza vaccinations will be accomplished as they have been for years. The Post Immunization Team is currently scheduling dates and times starting 15 September 09. DoD is requiring that 90% of active duty be completed by 1 December 2009. If your unit has not been contacted by the Post Immunization Team, please call them at 596-1682. Active duty Soldiers who miss the unit schedule immunization can receive their vaccination at the Hospital Immunization Clinic on the dates and times below or the 43<sup>rd</sup> Immunization station.

Beneficiaries will receive their vaccination beginning 15 September 2009 at the Hospital Immunization Clinic between the hours of 0800 to 1600 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It is not necessary for individuals to bring their medical record to receive the vaccination. It will be documented in the electronic record.

DoD civilian employees are authorized to receive the influenza vaccination through the Occupational Health Clinic, located in the Missouri Technical Park on Replacement Ave. The Occupational Health immunization station will be operational for civilian employees on a walk-in bases on the following dates from 1300 to 1600: September 21 through the 25 and October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22.

### ***H1N1 Immunization Program***

This year brings an additional concern with the development of H1N1 influenza virus that has plagued the world over the past months. Medical reporting processes allowed for early detection and the development of H1N1 vaccine which is currently undergoing clinical trials and production. The vaccine is tentatively scheduled to be released for use in late October to early November. There is NOT any projected shortage of vaccine; however, the amount needed to vaccinate the entire population will not be available all at once. The vaccine is scheduled for three bolus shipments with even distribution across the United States and Missouri. After the three initial bolus shipments, weekly shipments are schedule until all vaccinations have been completed.

### ***H1N1 Distribution and Administration***

The public health implications place the Department of Health and Human Services with the responsibility for distribution and vaccination for the H1N1. After careful review, the Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with DoD, raised great concern about National Security with the potential effects from the H1N1 virus. Based on their concerns, Active Duty personnel will receive their vaccine through the standard military channels. All other vaccinations will come through the Public Health channels. It is not known if the vaccine for both will arrive at the same time.

### ***Active Duty Military***

The military H1N1 vaccination process will be orchestrated using the same process as the seasonal influenza program utilizing the Post Immunization Team. Units will be scheduled as soon as vaccine arrives. There are some scheduling considerations that will determine when units will be vaccinated. For example, a Soldier who receives a vaccination for MMR or Flu mist cannot receive the next vaccination less than 30 days. The H1N1 vaccine is a two dose series with at least 21 days between vaccinations.

### ***Non-Military Personnel***

The Pulaski County Health Department and the Preventive Medicine Division have partnered to develop a workable plan to ensure all non-military personnel will receive the H1N1 vaccination. The program is based on receipt of the vaccine in three major shipments and the established priorities from the CDC and Department of Health and Human Services. The time between shipments are estimated to be at least weekly; however, there are no published dates. The patterns and trends of the H1N1 virus has been monitored across the world from the World Health Organization, CDC, National and State Health Departments to all of DoD Preventive Medicine Services. The priorities for vaccination were based on scientific studies that clearly show which groups have the highest potential to be infected. The CDC reported that children age 5 to 14 years old has an attack rate 14 times higher than in adults.

The priority groups are listed below.

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency services personnel
- Children, adolescents and young adults between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age, and
- People from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

The amount of the vaccine received in the initial three shipments is the key factor in developing a plan to best protect Pulaski County residents as well as the military beneficiaries. The interrelationship of the military beneficiaries and local citizens for public health concerns is one in the same. The Fort

Leonard Wood community is an extension of the local community with their children attending local schools and day care centers. The Pulaski County population consists of approximately 65 % military beneficiaries who interact daily with the local communities. The plan will be executed in phases as the vaccine is received. The initial vaccine shipment will happen on or around 22 October 2009, IF all manufactures are on time and receive FDA approval.

Pulaski County Health Department, in conjunction with Preventive Medicine, reviewed the projected number of vaccine doses received for each shipment as well as the priorities to develop the phase immunization categories. The plan will remain flexible to adjust for additional shipment of vaccine.

The initial shipment will be focused on the highest priorities established from the CDC and State Health Department.

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency services personnel
- Children 6 months to 14 years of age

The scheduled number of doses scheduled to arrive for the first shipment should cover the groups identified above.

The second shipment will be focused on

- Adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age
- People from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

The third shipment should be open to all individuals needing their initial dose and individuals who may need their second dose of the vaccine.

### ***Non- Military Where to go for vaccinations***

Currently, the Pulaski County Health Department, in conjunction with the Preventive Medicine Division, is coordinating with local schools for vaccination sites. The plan is to establish vaccination sites jointly from 1400 hrs to 1800 hours on specified days at each major school district, for example Waynesville, Dixon, Crocker, and Richland. This will allow parents who work or only have one vehicle to bring their child after hours to receive the vaccination. The Pulaski County Health Department is also generating a letter to be sent home for parents to give consent for their child to receive the vaccine during school hours.

Pregnant women will be able to go to any one of the following places to receive the vaccination:

St John's Clinics in St Robert or Richland

Central Ozark Medical Center of Richland

Dixon Family Practice

Pulaski County Medical Center in Waynesville (is pending final coordination)

Health Care personnel will receive their vaccinations through their employer. Pulaski County Ambulance District and Local Emergency Services (fire and police) will coordinate with Pulaski County Health Department to schedule vaccinations.

General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital Health Care workers and Fort Leonard Wood Emergency Services (Fire) personnel will be coordinated through the Occupational Health Clinic. The Active Duty Emergency Services will be coordinated through the Post Immunization Team.

The locations of the vaccination sites throughout the phases will remain the same to accommodate for the second dose and the different age groups. Additionally, increased vaccine availability will allow for local medical facilities, to include the GLWACH immunization clinic to vaccinate all personnel.

I would like to reiterate that there will be no shortage of the H1N1 vaccine; however, not all that will be needed will be immediately available. We understand the great concern and would like to vaccinate everybody immediately, but we will not have all the vaccine initially. We appreciate your consideration and would ask that you please embrace our efforts to maximize the available vaccine to protect the highest priority to prevent serious illness.